It is not possible to give fee concessions or to remit fees in the case of students in colleges and technical schools, nor to provide scholarships to poor and depressed classes communities alone. So far as English high schools and colleges are concerned there are a large number of open and close scholarships which are open to students of the depressed classes. I do not know what you mean by exemption of pupils of the depressed classes from payment of admission fees. There are no admission fees for schools. It is not possible to supply books, slates etc. free because it will mean inordinate cost. In the matter of midday meals, the depressed classes children are not the only poor ones who have to be given meals, but there are many poor people who undergo hardship for want of midday meals. The whole question of midday meals was considered carefully and I found on examination that if midday meals costing one chackram per head be given to each child in school, it will cost Government about 37 lakhs of rupees a year. That works out to about 18,500 Rupees a day.

MEMBER: Such concessions need be given only to very depressed classes.

DEWAN: Even that will work out to between one and two lakhs of rupees.

MEMBER: That expenditure will pay in the long run.

DEWAN: It is outside the bounds of our financial possibilities at present. Equally impracticable is the establishment of two boarding schools for depressed classes of 250 children in each school. There are ample facilities for primary education at present in the existing schools, and for secondary education too.

In the matter of representation in public service, when the depressed classes are duly qualified, I have no doubt they will take their place. As it is, everything possible is being done to provide suitable posts for suitable members of the depressed classes.

I have no doubt the question of representation of Cheramars in the Legislative Council will come up for consideration when the community is ripe for representation and when the constitution of the Council comes up for reconsideration at a future date.

In the matter of the Assembly, your very presence shows that Government are careful to study the requirements of unrepresented communities as opportunity offers and occasion demands.

146. Concessions to the Pulayas in the matter of education and appointments in the public service.

MR. AYYAN KALI (*Member, Nominated*) said that full fee concession should be allowed for another ten years to the pupils of the depressed classes studying in classes VI and VII.

The fee concessions granted to Pulaya pupils should be stopped in case the pupils failed for more than five years in the same class.

Free mid-day meals should be given at least to Pulaya pupils in schools.

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Primary education should be made compulsory among the depressed classes.

Fee concession should be granted to Pulaya pupils in survey schools.

Instructions should be issued for appointing one Pulaya peon in each of the taluk offices. A similar representation was made last year as a result of which two Pulayas were appointed as peons.

Pulaya peons should be appointed in the Excise and Police Departments.

Pulaya candidates who had studied up to classes VI and VII should be employed as peons in Munsiffs' courts and Zillah Courts.

The subordinate staff under the Protector of the Depressed Classes should be appointed from among the depressed classes.

Pulayas should be appointed as peons in all departments except the Devaswom Department.

Pulaya girls should be admitted into the vernacular school for girls at Neyyattinkara.

Arrangements should be made for providing a Satrom for the Pulayas at Trivandrum. There was a representation on the same subject at the last session of the Assembly, but nothing was done yet.

Scholarships should be granted to three Pulaya pupils in each Division.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Ayyan Kali, you are not strictly correct in saying that only two appointments were given to Pulayas. There were eight applicants of whom six were given appointments.

In regard to noon-day meals I have only to refer you to my previous reply. Your request for the grant of scholarships to 3 Pulaya boys in each division will be considered. The question of a satrom is pending the selection of a site for the purpose. Fees for students who fail in successive years cannot be continued.

147. Needs of the Kaniyan community.

MR. V. NILACANTAN ASAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Ganaka community stood in need of special concessions from Government. In the first place, the boys and girls of this community should be granted fee concessions in all schools. Secondly, those members of the community who were already in the public service should be given all due promotions and those who were not in the service should be entertained whenever suitable vacancies arose. In the Education Department, there was a Ganaka girl, whose case deserved special attention at the hands of Government. The total strength of the community was 12,557. Most of them had learnt some little astrology and medicine and were making their livelihood by that. But the impression had somehow gone abroad that compared with other communities the Ganakas were not in a backward state. This was not correct. The community was really one which deserved special encouragement from Government. There were some forty members in the community who were qualified for appointment in the public service. Their claims should be duly recognised. Thirdly, lands should

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